UPCOUNTY

Bringing the County Closer to You!

Isiah Leggett, County Executive
Timothy Firestine, Chief Administrative Officer

Catherine Matthews, Director
Cherian Eapen, UCAB Chair

December 20, 2013

Holiday Schedule for Christmas and New Years Day
Montgomery County government will observe a holiday schedule for Christmas Day on Wednesday, December 25, and for New Year's Day on Wednesday, January 1.   See details at
http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/press/PR_details.asp?PrID=13233

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You're invited!

Gaithersburg Library Re-Opens
Saturday, January 4
Ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10:00am
18330 Montgomery Village Avenue, Gaithersburg

Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) has announced that the newly renovated Gaithersburg Library will celebrate its grand re-opening with County Executive Ike Leggett and other elected officials joining MCPL, Department of General Services representatives and local residents. Special programs, presented by the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc. and the Friends of the Library, Gaithersburg Chapter, will be held throughout the day. There also will be entertainment, refreshments and tours of the building.

Updated announcements about the re-opening activities will be posted on the Gaithersburg Library page website as the day draws closer.   **http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/press/PR_details.asp?PrID=13109**

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You're also invited to an Open House!

Gilchrist Center for Cultural Diversity Opens new Resource Center
Saturday, January 4
18330 Montgomery Village Avenue, Gaithersburg
(event begins after Gaithersburg Library's re-opening ceremony)

Learn about Gilchrist's English and computer classes and other resources provided. Family activities will be held 10:00am-5:00pm by the Friends of the Gaithersburg Library.

For more information, call the Gilchrist Center at 240-777-4940.

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County Executive Leggett to Kickoff Public Forums on Next Year's Operating Budget In Upcounty
Monday, January 6   7:00pm-8:30pm
BlackRock Center for the Arts
12901 Town Commons Drive, Germantown

County Executive Ike Leggett will hold his annual public forums to get comments and suggestions from our county's residents, businesses, and organizations about operating budget priorities for July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

All of the forums are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m., on the following dates:

- **Monday, January 6,** BlackRock Center for the Arts, 12901 Town Commons Drive, Germantown.
- **Monday, January 13,** Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda.
- **Thursday, January 16,** Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center, 3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring.
- **Monday, January 27**, Mid-County Community Recreation Center, 2004 Queensguard Road, Silver Spring.
- **Wednesday, January 29,** Silver Spring Civic Building, One Veterans Place, Silver Spring.

The County Executive announces his Recommended Fiscal Year 2015 Operating Budget on March 17. The County Council approves the operating budget at the end of May.

*Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible, **but no less than 72 hours prior to the event**. If these or other services or aids are needed to participate in this activity, please call 240-777-6507, TTY 240-777-6505 or email a request to karen.falcon@montgomerycountymd.gov.*

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Statement of Montgomery County Council President Craig Rice on Process to Fill District 5 Vacancy

Montgomery County Council President Craig Rice has outlined the process to appoint a new Councilmember for District 5. On Dec. 10 Councilmember Valerie Ervin announced that she will resign from the Council on Jan. 3, 2014 to become executive director of the Center for Working Families.

As provided in Sections 102 and 106 of the County Charter, the Council intends to appoint a new Councilmember for District 5 by Jan. 31, 2014 to complete Councilmember Ervin's unexpired term, which ends on Dec. 1, 2014. The new Councilmember must reside in District 5 and be registered to vote in the same political party as Councilmember Ervin (Democrat).

The Council intends to select a person who has shown a clear understanding of the issues that are important to residents of District 5. To assure a level playing field for all persons interested in seeking election to the next full term from District 5, the Council expects to appoint a person who does not plan to run for election to that term.

Applicants should submit letters of interest with a resume to Council President Craig Rice, Montgomery County Council, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850 by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014. Applications can also be submitted via email to: county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov

Each applicant must be a registered voter in Montgomery County, registered to vote as a Democrat, and, at the time of appointment, a resident of Council District 5. Each resume submitted should include the applicant's professional and civic experience, political party affiliation, home and office telephone numbers, and home and email addresses.

Each application letter, recommendation letter, and resume submitted as part of the appointment process will be made available to the public. Each applicant must submit a confidential County financial disclosure statement for Council review.

(The form will be transmitted to each applicant for completion.) Only the financial disclosure statement of the ultimate appointee will be made available to the public.

The Council will decide which applicants to interview. Interviews will be scheduled for 2 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 17 at the Council Office Building. Additional interviews, if necessary, will be scheduled for 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 22, and Friday, Jan. 24.   *http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/Council/PressRelease/PR_detailsnew.asp?PrID=13221*

<p align="center"><i>Application Deadline is Jan. 8, 2014</i></p>

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<p align="center">Why Montgomery County is Great for a Fortune 500 Business;
see Mr. J.W. Marriott Jr.'s thoughts at
http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/Council/PressRelease/PR_detailsnew.asp?PrID=13219</p>

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County Grant Information

County Executive's Community Collaboration Grants - **Application deadline is January 15, 2014**

This is discretionary funding included in the County Executive's annual recommended budget to support non-profit organizations delivering services consistent with the County Executive's mission statement. For FY15, priority consideration will be given to safety net services, services to at-risk senior citizens, and out-of-school time activities for youth. Please see **FAQ here** or at http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/exec/grants/grant-faqs.html

County Council Grants - **Application deadline is January 15, 2014**

The Council accepts applications for programs and projects that advance the County's services, goals, and objectives, including, but not limited to the following areas: **community development**, **economic development**, **education, health and human services**, and **recreation**. See details at

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/grants/council_grants.html

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Final PHED Committee Recommended Zoning Code Rewrite
(includes recommendations from December worksessions)

The PHED Committee's recommended zoning ordinance (ZTA 13-04) is posted on the project website. The draft includes all PHED Committee changes to the original ZTA in **GREEN** text, and plain language edits, corrections, and clarifications in **BLUE** text. Deletions are indicated by [brackets] and text added to the draft is underlined.

Revised Zoning Map

An updated version of the interactive zoning map (District Map Amendment G-956) is available on the project website. The revised map reflects all of the changes that have occurred since May 2, 2013, including changes made by the PHED committee. Learn more about the changes to the proposed map here. Use our interactive map to find out about current and proposed zoning categories. For older browsers, use this link.

Need help? Contact Matt.Johnson@montgomeryplanning.org or 301-495-1325.

County Council Review

The County Council is scheduled to review the draft zoning code on **January 14, 15, 16 & 21** (if required) **at 9:30 in the Council Hearing Room.** The zoning map will be reviewed by the PHED Committee and County Council at a later date.

To learn more about zoning in Montgomery County, see frequently asked questions at
http://montgomeryplanning.org/development/zoning/faq.shtm

See the zone translation table at
http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/development/zoning/documents/ZoningConversionTable_12.16.13.pdf

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Join us!

Montgomery County to Hold Second Open Data Town Hall
Tuesday, January 28   7:00pm-8:30pm
Upcounty Regional Services Center
12900 Middlebrook Road, Germantown

Based on the success of a November event in Bethesda, the Montgomery County Innovation Program will host another Open Data Town Hall in the continuing efforts to position the county as a leader in open data policy. At the town hall, staff will look for input from residents on the types of datasets they would like to see on our Open Data portal, "dataMontgomery," (http://data.montgomerycountymd.gov/). The first event attracted 40 participants and their suggestions on Open Data.

For more about the program, visit http://mcinnovationlab.com/montgomery-county-to-hold-second-open-data-town-hall/

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County Council Schedules Public Hearings on Capital Improvement Program (CIP)
for Fiscal Years 2015-2020 (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2020)
February 5 and 6, 2014
Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville

The Council CIP worksessions will begin February 3 and will continue after the public hearings. Check the Council Agenda for times as the date draws nearer. The Council Agenda is subject to change any time after printing or during the Council meeting. Please contact the Council Office at 240-777-7900 or visit the website to obtain updates www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council.

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Leggett Invited to United Nations to Participate in Leadership Event

County Executive Ike Leggett (left) recently traveled to New York City at the invitation of the United Nations to participate in a leadership dialogue on "Accelerating Action towards Sustainable Urbanization: The Role of Private Urban Partnerships in Catalyzing Change."   Click here to see the County Executive's prepared remarks or go to http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/speeches/SP_details.asp?SpID=67

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Montgomery County Plans Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and Celebration Events

Day of Service Activities
Montgomery County will honor the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a Tribute and Musical Celebration and Day of Service activities on Monday, January 20, 2014.
The Montgomery County Volunteer Center is organizing and coordinating indoor family-friendly service projects at locations across the County. The projects are all approved for Student Service Learning hours.

Help the Hungry Food Drive
Manna Food Center is partnering with select Montgomery County Giant Food stores to hold Service Day food drives in honor of MLK Day 2014. The food drives will be held on Saturday and Sunday, January 18 and 19. For additional details and volunteer registration information, contact volunteer@mannafood.org.

Musical Celebration
This 20th anniversary of Montgomery County's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute and Musical Celebration carries the theme of "Honoring the Legacy: Celebrate, Serve, Remember." The annual event will take place on Monday, January 20

at 3 p.m. at the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda, and will feature a diverse array of performers. The 2014 recipients of the Children of the Dream, Humanitarian and Literary Arts Awards will be announced. The annual celebration is free and open to the public but tickets are required.

See details at http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/press/PR_details.asp?PrID=13222

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Congratulations to Upcounty Awardees! . . .

Ceremony Honors Award Winners of the Keep Montgomery County Beautiful Annual Beautification and Amateur Photography Competitions

At this year's 27th annual Keep Montgomery County Beautiful (KMCB) awards ceremony, the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) honored 66 beautification award winners and 55 amateur photographers. In addition, two people received the Clean Sweep Awards for the Adopt a Road program and one award was presented for the Governor's Proclamation of the Largest Tree in the State of Maryland.

Here are the awards presented to Upcounty residents, groups, and businesses.

COMMUNITY NON-PROFESSIONAL for plantings maintained by community residents through homeowner associations, garden clubs or civic associations:
Award of Distinction - *Environmental*: Woodland Hills Homeowners Association Hillside, **Gaithersburg**

COMMUNITY PROFESSIONAL for community landscaping projects designed and maintained by professional landscape architects or contractors:
Award of Distinction *- New*: Stewartown Homes, Green Scene Landscaping, **Gaithersburg**
Award of Excellence: Londonderry Towers, Green Scene Landscaping, **Gaithersburg**
Award of Excellence: Shady Grove Apartments, Green Scene Landscaping, **Gaithersburg**

COMMERCIAL/RETAIL for outdoor projects at facilities such as shopping malls, restaurants, retail businesses, gas stations, etc:
Award of Excellence - *Environmental*: Marshall Farm, Ruppert Landscape, Inc., **Laytonsville**

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONAL for outdoor projects at schools, government buildings, hospitals, churches or libraries:
Award of Excellence: Master Gardeners Farmers Triangle Demonstration Garden, Montgomery County Fairgrounds, **Gaithersburg**
Award of Excellence: Master Gardeners Heritage Garden, Montgomery County Fairgrounds, **Gaithersburg**

To see photographs of the winning landscape projects, visit MCDOT's website at
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdotcommunityoutreach.

Winners of the 22nd annual KMCB amateur photography awards are listed below.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BY DAY – Any photo taken outdoors in Montgomery County that depicts something fun, beautiful or exciting during daytime hours:
Second: "Lovely," Patricia Benjamin, **Montgomery Village**

MONTGOMERY COUNTY LANDMARKS – Any photo taken outdoors in Montgomery County of a natural or manmade commonly recognized landmark or scene:
First: "Gaithersburg Train Station," Cynthia Hunter, **Montgomery Village**
Second: "Canal Boat at Great Falls," Scott Fauce, **Clarksburg**

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HER PEOPLE – Any photo taken of one or more people involved in County activities, close-up or distant, showing leisure activity, productivity or community service:
First: "Wet and Fun," Barry Webster, **Germantown**
Third: "A Kiss of Sunshine," Natalya Borisovna Parris, **Gaithersburg**

MONTGOMERY COUNTY YOUTH –For those younger than 19 years of age:
First: "Shadows and Lights," Kalle Swinford, **Damascus**
Second: "That's Close Enough," Tatiana Harris, **Gaithersburg**

To see the winning photographs, visit MCDOT's website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcdotcommunityoutreach.

ADOPT A ROAD CLEAN SWEEP AWARDS for fiscal year (FY) 2013 (July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013) recognizes the highest number of reported cleanings by an individual or group and the highest number of bags of trash reported being picked up by an individual or group.

Award of Excellence for Most Trash Collected: Potomac Chapter of the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association (N.A.V.H.D.A), represented by Bill Valentine adopted the rustic West Willard Road from Izaak Walton Way to River Road in **Poolesville**. In FY13 they collected 80 lawn/leaf bags of trash, the equivalent of 57, 55-gallon bags. They have been with the Adopt a Road program since 2010.

GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION OF THE LARGEST KNOWN TREE IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND. The Montgomery County Forestry Board recognized the individual/resident with the largest tree in Montgomery County, Maryland. The **FY 13 winner** was Mary Bradford, Director of Montgomery Parks for the American sycamore (Platanus occidentalis) at Dickerson Conservation Park (located on Montgomery Parks property). For more information, contact the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Forest Service Office at 301-854-6060 or visit the website.

For a complete listing of awards presented, go to
http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/press/PR_details.asp?PrID=13170

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For more News from the Office of the County Executive, visit: *http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/news*

For other news and meeting agendas, visit:
County Council http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/csltmpl.asp?url=/content/council/news/news.asp
Planning Board http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/department/news_releases/

Also check out the latest from:
Department of Public Libraries http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/libraries/index.asp
Department of Recreation http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/rectmpl.asp?url=/content/rec/index.asp
Department of Transportation   http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot/index.html
Department of Environmental Protection http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/deatmpl.asp?url=/content/dep/dephome/index.asp
Department of Permitting Services http://permittingservices.montgomerycountymd.gov/DPS/general/Home.aspx
Montgomery County Volunteer Center http://www.montgomeryserves.org

Note: Council will be on recess December 16, 2013 to January 10, 2014

Happy Holidays from Montgomery County's Upcounty Regional Office!